

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-42 are pending in this application. Claims 16-30 and 34 are allowed. Further, claims 33 and 35 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that early indication of the allowable subject matter. Further, with respect to the indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 33 and 35, those claims are amended by the present response to now be rewritten in independent form, and thus those claims are also believed to be allowable.

Claims 31, 32, and 36-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,418,156 to Peressini.

Addressing the above-noted rejection based on Peressini, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note independent claim 31 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 31 now clarifies that the non-doped region is also formed “at at least one end of the one or more non-homogeneously doped zones”. That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification for example at page 10, lines 9-14. As noted in that portion of the specification, deformation at the ends of the lasing rod can be reduced if a non-doped section is provided at at least one of its ends. Such features as now clarified in independent claim 31 are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Peressini.

Peressini discloses in Figures 7 and 8 an embodiment in which an inner region 710 of a solid state laser is surrounded by an outer region 720. However, as shown clearly in Figure 7 in Peressini that inner region 710 extends throughout the solid state gain medium 700 in the

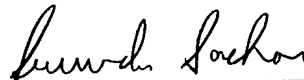
direction of the central optical axis 744. Thereby, in Peressini that inner doped region 710 is formed until the end of the solid state gain medium 700. Thus, in Peressini there is no non-doped region at at least one end of the one or more non-homogeneously doped zones, as now clarified in independent claim 31, and the claims dependent therefrom.

Thus, independent claim 31, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to distinguish over Peressini.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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